

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

22nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HINCHEY SECURES \$550,000 FOR DELAWARE RIVER PROJECTS

KINGSTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-22) today announced that funding he sought to improve the aquatic health of the Upper Delaware River has been included in the omnibus spending bill that passed the House on Thursday. Hinchey, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, worked with fellow committee member U.S. Representative Jim Walsh (NY-25) to ensure the inclusion of the two earmarks totaling \$550,000.

"Trout fishing is an important component of Delaware County's economy," said Hinchey. "Drought conditions have put a big dent in that industry and have done damage to the river's ecosystem. These funds will help correct these problems and restore the Upper Delaware to health."

Releases from the three large New York City Delaware Basin reservoirs have created a trout fishery worth \$30 million to Delaware County. Low reservoir release rates during the recent drought have caused thermal as well as habitat stress for these fish. Hinchey secured two earmarks based on recommendations by fisheries experts:

- **Upper Delaware River OASIS flow model: \$250,000** for additional stream flow modeling required as part of the Delaware River Basin Commission's efforts to evaluate its flow management options. The funds will be used for data collection, analysis, and computer modeling needed to allow the current OASIS flow model for the Delaware River to fully and accurately evaluate the effects of different flow management regimes. It will also provide the computer modeling needed to improve the OASIS flow model's capacity to predict impacts of different flow regimes on water temperature and on the location and effects of the salt front in the lower Delaware River.
- **Upper Delaware River Tributary Restoration: \$300,000** for stream restoration work on tributaries of the West Branch of the Delaware, the East Branch of the Delaware, and the Beaverkill River. The funds will be used for projects designed to restore aquatic habitat, improve water quality, and improve flood hazard mitigation in small tributaries that provide thermal refuge and spawning habitat for trout and other fish species.